the santa clara valley Sun Magazine

Happy holidays to all our readers

Vol. 2 No. 51 December 21, 1977

people talking

Bills don't always bring bad news

By MARY LESTER

DUE TO BE A best seller in the non-fiction field of writing is PG and E's booklet "The Waste Watcher's Energy Diet." It's free and that's the main reason for the coming popularity but it's a great little "prescription" for keeping one's utility bills low and thereby helping conserve energy. You can get your copy at any PG and E office and the latest newsletter that's included in your bill tells about it and other fascinating items worth reading. Or, haven't you ever noticed that inserted news material? Do look-see . . .

Believe me, sometimes sources of information for columnists can be myopic and such was the case when it was erroneously reported that **Assemblyman Richard Hayden** did not show up for the recent big annual GOP fund-raising dinner. Truth is, our Richard was definitely at the $100 a plate dinner (preceded by its own cocktail party) but not at the $25 per person cocktail party held in another room. Not being in both places simultaneously is the way it's just going to have to be until Dick is given the gift of bi-location. Until then, he will do his bit for unity among Republicans in one place at a time. Amen . . .

Earl Lewis, who teaches Criminal Justice at De Anza, will leave in January for eight months duty at Fort McClelland where he will act as Exercise Coordinator for an a Field Training Exercises' innovative, lengthy session in rear area security and POW control. Earl's bride jests she's just now getting used to the jibes over her new name - **Jeri Lewis** . . .

At the San Jose Elks Lodge #522, that effervescent greeting bestowed on members and their guests upon arrival is given by none other than "doorman" **Dr. Bill Kennedy**. A retired dentist who practiced on Race and Park sts., Bill has been the official greeter at this Elks spot for six years. It's a volunteer job which means he sees everyone who comes in the door, not only at the Thursday weekly meetings but gives a "hello" to all who visit on Friday and Saturday nights. Bill is also president of the Santa Clara County Adult Forum of Senior Citizens. So, Doc Bill dispenses all sorts of good will including a toothy smile that's all his . . . Did you know that **Cesar Chavez'** German Shepard dog is called "Boycott"?

JANE NEEDHAM, Santa Clara County's famed "woman in the iron lung" who had a book written about her, would have loved to watch the recent baptism of a particular grandson. Daddy, **Craig Needham**, student body president of the University of Santa Clara in 1968, chose the old Mission Chapel at the university as the baptismal spot for his first son. The Reverend Walter Schmidt, bedecked in a very formal cope (like a heavy opera cape) and stole, baptised the babe, **Jashua**, in the sanctuary of the church while about 40 well-known names in the Valley stood in a semi-circle before the altar.

It was all very circumspect but looking at the somber-faced Craig, there had to be many present who stifled chuckles recalling all the headline-making stories throughout the 1960s on Jane, Craig and his sisters Sue and Sharon. San Jose's **Becky Villareal** remembers Craig winning practically every dance prize ever given out on KNTV-11's Saturday afternoon Record Hop. **Lucille Kendrick** (who worked for the late **Judge Callahan**), still can't get over how Craig, as a Bellarmine senior, first heard on a Monday about an organization called Teen Age Republicans and that, on the coming Friday, they would meet in Sacramento to elect a state president. Immediately Craig went to a local meeting of TAR, eruditely sopke up, was elected their delegate and then on Friday to Sacramento where he was elected president! Today he's a lawyer practicing in San Francisco and much to the delight of his clients and political types, his drive has not diminished. It will be interesting for all the Craig watchers, to see who Joshua takes after. For there is Stephanie, the mamma, too . . .

MARY LESTER, surrounded by those wonderful caballeros, the De Anza Lancers, wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(Photography by Larry Levine)

Speaking of whirlwinds, we can't overlook **Dottie Hartman** who is a full time volunteer worker at the Village House in Los Gatos and the volunteer chairman of the Red Cross in the same city where she teaches an advanced First Aid class in Cardio Pulmonary Resusitation, among other things. Then, too, delightful Dottie is helping to build a retirement center in Los Gatos for Presbyterian Homes, Inc. She somehow or other finds time to play tennis every day and swim in her pool and admits to being past 60 and flauntingly doesn't care who knows it - including her best friend and husband, **Lloyd**, an FMC lawyer.

IT'S THAT TIME again for candidates to announce for office and one Saratogan resident, **Richard H. Salsman, Sr.**, is aiming to be Sheriff of S.C. County. A criminal investigator in the D.A.'s office,he is the son of the late **Byrl Salsman**, Justice of the Court of Appeals, State Senator, Assemblyman and former mayor of Palo Alto. Dick, who was with the sheriff's office for 15 years is widely known as "The Bear," dating back to his days with the Division of Forestry. Not to be outdone in names, though, is his Southern-gal wife, **Patricia**, who is nicknamed Willie on account of her being such a fine semi-pro baseball player that the fans started comparing her to the big time male counterparts. Wouldn't you know the name of their 30 foot Chris Craft is "The Willie-Bear?" Watch for it to have a campaign sticker on both the bow and stern. Or, is that fore and aft? . . .

This year, the Los Gatos Historical Preservation Society is selling calendars with pictures that show landmarks of Los Gatos and include a short biography. The backside of each of the 12 scenes has space for a message and address for they may be used as a postcard after - or before - the month is passed. How practical!

affairs of state

State should push for 911 implementation

By FRED W. KLINE
Capitol News Service

IT HAS BEEN 10 years since the idea of a universal emergency phone number — 911 — was offered by American Telephone and Telegraph(AT&T), and despite acclaim for the concept, the number still is in wide disuse not only in the United States but in California, the first state to show interest in it.

The state legislature passed a bill in 1974 that appropriated $1.2 million to coordinate a 911 plan by 1985, and established a state surcharge on telephone bills to help acquire financing.

Since then, controversy has arisen among local governments over state reimbursement and on how to implement the system.

Consequently a new bill, SB 1030, was passed this year to increase the flexibility of state reimbursement and increase the overall 911 revenue.

UNFORTUNATELY problems persist. There is much concern over local control of the system. And, a variety of implementation options are available to local governments including entering a joint powers agreement to establish regional systems.

Overlapping jurisdictions create problems, as well as telephone company boundaries which do not conform to city or county lines.

In any case, there have been problems. But they are predictable problems and should be overcome.

It is imperative that the 911 system become available for all citizens in the state, because the evidence seems clear that many lives could be saved as soon as it becomes a reality.

ON A LOCAL basis, such cities as Alameda, Gustine, San Clemente, Rancho Santa Fe and Sunnyvale have implemented 911 already. Other cities may also organize before a state system is set up.

SB 1030 provides for continuence of a surcharge of one half of one percent on consumer telephone bills and a maximum rate of three quarters of one percent. The measure allows the maximum surcharge to be ordered by the state Franchise Tax Board only after a cost analysis of a statewide 911 is completed.

So far, that's the major problem. How much will it cost?

Mason Regiel, state communications director, claims that it has been nearly impossible to demonstrate the cost of a statewide system.

Essentially, the problem of estimating its cost is the reason for years of delay in implementation.

SO HE WANTS TO amend SB 1030 to allow the Franchise Tax Board to raise the surcharge immediately to the three fourth of one percent maximum and let the revenue accrue in a special 911 fund.

If more funds are collected than are needed to implement the system — a highly unlikely possibility, says Regiel, — then the money can be rebated back to the taxpayers.

The amendments proposed for SB 1030 seem like a logical way to get 911 launched quickly.

What we're talking about is saving hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives in California every year.

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Sun
Magazine

A Suburban Newspapers publication.
Almaden-Cambrian Sun; Campbell Press; Cupertino Courier, East San Jose Sun; Los Altos Town Crier; Milpitas Post; Mountain View Sun; San Jose Sun; Santa Clara Sun; Saratoga News; South San Jose Sun; Sunnyvale Scribe.

Publication offices: 10950 N. Blaney Ave., Cupertino, Calif. 95014.

Editorial office: 255-7500 EDITOR: Kate Wakerly
Advertising: Carole Holcomb 262-2454
Publisher: Elaine Levine

Be a real Santa to someone

Cure the boring gifts syndrome, give imaginatively for Christmas

By JAN FORD

A SPOTTED HORROR of a Christmas tie. Perfume that makes your sinuses fill up. A record useful only as a platter for serving pizza. A coffee table book that sits in pristine newness because the contents will cure insomnia.

Nobody gets any points in Santa's Big Book for giving goodies like that for the holidays. All they get is a strained but polite thank-you note.

You won't be accused of being ordinary if you give the Christmas presents listed here. The people on your gift list may look at you out of the corner of their eyes and mutter to themselves when they open the presents but they won't think you're unimaginative.

Here's information on nine gifts you can buy right here in Santa Clara County, from Los Altos to San Jose.

Prices range from $4.77 for a gift package of Paul Masson wines to $75,000 for a set of 12 antique Russian icons. In between there is a trio of striped cats for $1,000, a $25 family membership in the San Jose Museum of Art, a $19.95 tarantula and a live Colorado Blue Spruce Christmas tree for $24.95.

FOR THOSE OF YOUR friends who love the liquid that comes from grapes, there's wine from Saratoga's Paul Masson Vineyards, 13150 Saratoga Ave.

You could, of course, buy the wine at something as everyday as a liquor store, but you'll find it a treat to visit the vineyards themselves. They overlook the valley and there is a tasting room, gift shop and other enticements.

One of their most popular gift packages is a carafe spice rack that holds four splits of wine. When you've consumed the wine you hang the rack on your kitchen wall and fill the bottles with spices, closing them with the corks provided in the package. The price is $7.95.

Another gift package is three pints of wine, one each of burgundy, rose and chablis for $4.77.

For the true wine conoisseur or for someone who loves the smug feeling of having a few bottles laid aside for emergencies there are cases of wine which hold 12 bottles.

An emergency might be defined as unexpected guests, a trying day at the office or a toothache. If you do find yourself with a toothache you might try the remedy proposed by blues singer Clarence Van Hook of Berkeley: "You take a glass of wine and you pour it on your teeth."

A case of chateau-bottled Johannisberg Reisling is $48.50, a case of Pinot Chardonnay is $54 to $64.80, depending on the vintage and a case of Gewurtstraminer is $48.60.

For those who have even more elevated taste or worse toothaches there is a case of Johannisberg Reisling champagne vintage 1974 at $96.

NOT HIGH ON everybody's list of cute animals but definitely an interesting creature is the tarantula.

One of the hairy little beasts can be purchased for $19.95 at Andy's Pet Shop, 1280 The Alameda, San Jose. It measures about five inches across.

Owner Geraldine Camilleri says that the tarantula likes to live in a terrarium or a fish bowl with a shell light to keep it warm. It requires a bowl of water with a small sponge in it and live crickets to munch on.

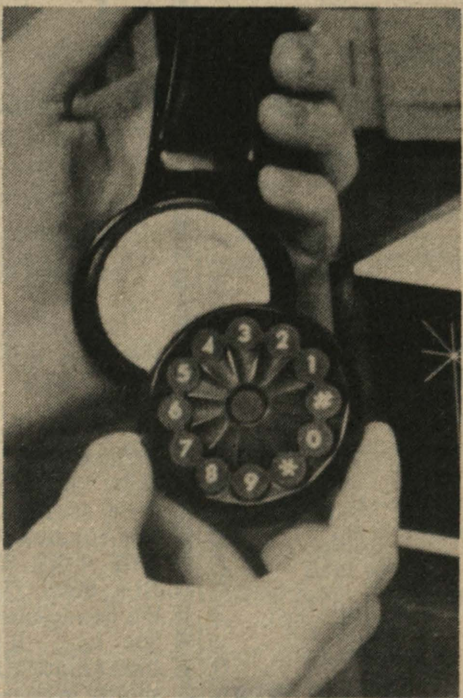
The red-legged tarantula from South America is gentle, non-poisonous and won't bite, according to Camilleri. She says that you could take your tarantula out of its terrarium or fish bowl and play with it but that nobody would ever catch her doing that.

IF YOU HAVE AN extremely large balance in your Christmas Club account, you might want to consider a collection of a dozen eighteenth and nineteenth century Russian icons.

The price is $75,000 for all or you may buy a single icon for $2,500 to $10,000, according to owner Vern Holcomb of the Corininthian Studios at 20506 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga.

Some of the icons are mounted with pearls, some are set with semi-precious stones and some have Russian enamel ornamentation.

Holcomb says that the icons were originally painted with religious scenes and covered with a layer of silver which was cut out to show the most interesting details, for example, the faces or hands of the Madonnas or saints.

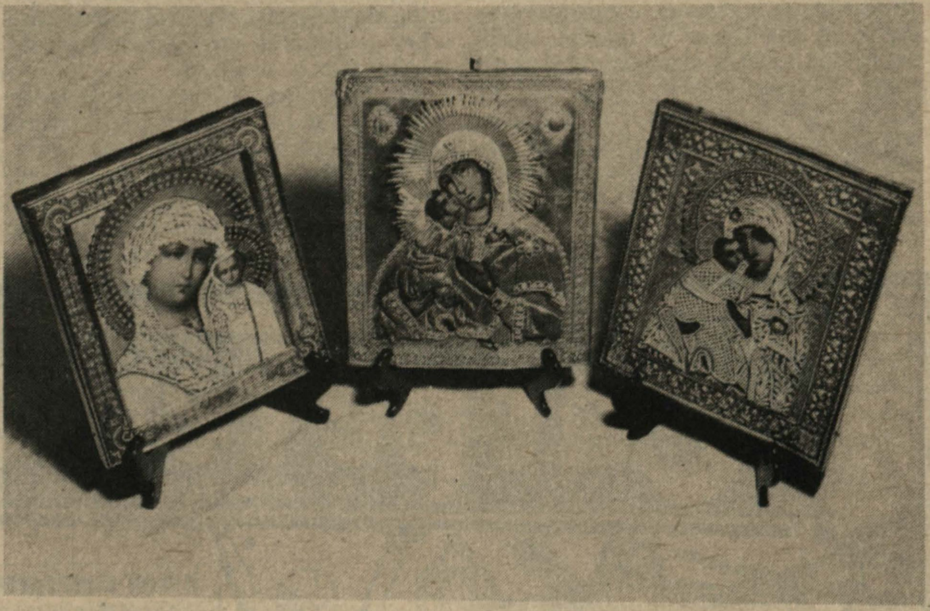


A SOFT-TOUCH costs $39.95 and converts your regular telephone into a touch-tone.

For those with smaller budgets, and that should include just about everybody, the Corninthian Studios have iridescent Art Nouveau-style pendants with fish, bird or butterfly motifs made by contemporary artisans in art glass including Lundberg Studios and Orient and Flume. These are about $15.

FOR YOUR FRIENDS who are interested in art, there's a membership in the San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St.

The memberships vary widely in price, from $8 a year for students and senior citizens to $1,000 and over for people who are classified as "benefactors," according to director Albert Dixon.



EIGHTEENTH AND nineteenth century Russian icons aren't for everyone, but then, neither is the $2,500 to $10,000 price tag.

The museum has 46 exhibitions planned for next year, the most spectacular of which is the premier American showing of the Alexander Calder traveling exhibit scheduled for April 2 to May 22. Admission to all exhibitions is free.

Other memberships are $15 for an individual, $25 for a family, $35 for a supporting member, $50 for a sustaining member and $100 for a donor.

Special privileges for members include a 10 percent discount in the bookstore and on art purchases at the museum, free admission to art classes for children of members, lectures, newsletter, previews, receptions and tours.

FOR THE SPORTS FANS and sports fanatics on your list, how about a season ticket to the San Jose Earthquakes soccer games?

A 15-game season ticket with reserved seats at mid-field is $95; a family can take advantage of a special plan that includes tickets for two adults and two youths 18 and under for $195. Families with more than two offspring may add tickets for other children at $30 each.

A sideline adult ticket is $70 and a sideline youth ticket is $40, according to assistant public relations director Jim Parker.

The team is now entering its fifth season in the North American Soccer League. Parker said, "We're looking forward to this season. We made the playoffs last year and we're working hard to ensure another season of fine soccer in the Bay Area."

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC, his daughter Sara and his son Papillon would make great Christmas gifts, according to Jasmine Tucker of 1391 Redmond road, San Jose.

The three are spectacularly marked silver tabby cats. You may buy the trio for $1,000 or Captain Fantastic for $400 and his offspring for $300 each. But that's only if you qualify as an adoptive cat-parent.

Tucker, a cat breeder and member of several local cat clubs, will talk with you to see what kind of cat would be best for you and the way you live. If you and the cat don't get along after a couple of weeks, she'll refund all of your money. Tucker doesn't think that's very likely, though, because in many years of cat breeding the occasion has never come up.

"A domestic shortahir cat like these three is especially good as a gift because the breed has very few idiosyncracies," she said.

"A domestic shorthair will make himself at home immediately and adapt well to people and situations. The breed isn't high-strung and neurotic like a few of the more exotic breeds."

There are definite advantages to buying an adult cat rather than a kitten, Tucker pointed out. A kitten may be cute and fluffy but is also interested in "climbing the drapes, knocking things over and swinging from the chandelier.

"An adult cat has already learned his manners and is still playful but won't tear up your house." She commented that older people especially like adult cats.

Captain Fantastic and his offspring share the same temperament although the Captain is a little more outgoing, she states. "They're all sweet and gentle and love to sit on laps."

(Continued on page 5)

Confused?

Last week's Winter Sports wraparound section carried a map of ski areas in California. Unfortunately, due to a technical error on the part of the service which supplied the map, the numbers on it were incorrectly located. The guide, in text, was correct, however. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

consumers corner

Champion spark plugs not the villain

WE PROMISED several weeks ago to give you the final report on the problem of the Mazda rotary engine being severely damaged as a result of stuck or "frozen" spark plugs. The research results are in and the Champion spark plugs are not the villains.

The problem lies primarily with the silicon/aluminum alloy engine housing and its inability to withstand any overtorqueing of the spark plug or repeated withdrawal and insertion of unlubricated spark plugs. The failed engines brought to Consumers United's attention had all experienced failure with Champion plugs but this was due to the fact that Champion plugs are the majority sold in the plug market.

Subsequently (through research reports), we found that the failure mode existed with Bosch, N.K.O. and all other manufacturers that make spark plugs to fit Mazda engines.

The use of fuel (other than recommended) in the Mazda engine can lead to deposits on the lead threads of the spark plugs that will gall and strip the threads in the engine housing. Since the thread area in the Mazda engine is so thin, no remedial action is possible and the whole engine housing must be scrapped.

The Mazda engine has a reputation for becoming detuned in short order — more attention must be paid to keep this rotary "in tune" than any other on the market. Based on Mazda's rotary engine problems, we recommend that the standard piston engine be your selection if you must buy a Mazda.

The Champion Spark Plug Company issued a magnificent response to our technical queries and we suggest that anyone haveing spark plug related problems or technical questions — ask Champion — they have the answers. Contact Charles Crawford, Regional Engineer, 7654 Desertwood Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

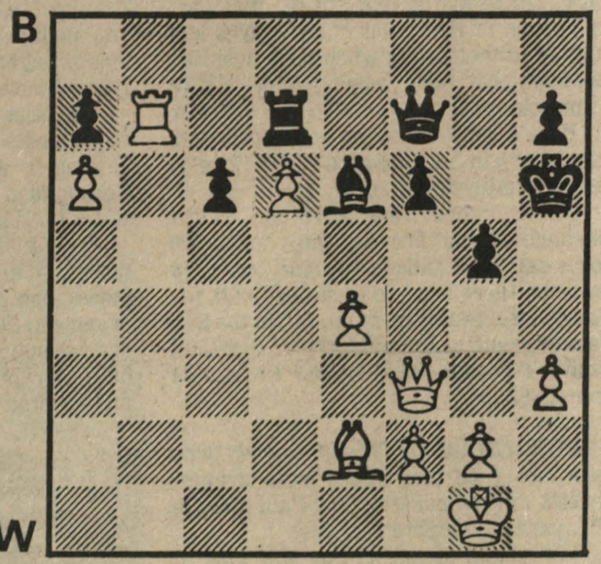
The dry cleaners ruined my $120 ski jacket. It was less than one year old. The owner of the cleaners says the problem is the manufacturer's fault and he won't be held responsible. Have I a chance to get my money back?

Dionne Kessler,
Los Altos

The dry cleaner is deemed to have a level of professionalism that will let him know how to clean fabrics without damage. File a claim with his insurance company — he won't like it — his insurance premiums may go up — but do it anyhow. If this fails, take him to the small claims court and request replacement cost plus dry cleaning fees plus filing and summons service costs.

Editor's note: This column is compiled for the SNPI newspapers by Slim Ingham. Consumers United is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the consumer. Readers seeking help or membership information may write to Consumer United, P. O. Box 311, Palo Alto 94302, phone 494-1858. For more immediate help with consumer-related complaints, call 245-7402, Monday through Friday, 3 to 7:30p.m.

chess challenge chess chal



PROBLEM NO. 47: White to play and win. Taken from Tal vs. Dvoretsky, U.S.S.R. Championship, Leningrad, 1974. Solution next week.

By JOHN SUMARES

Solution No. 46: 1. R-B6! KR-B1 2. Q-B5+, K-N1 3. RxR-, RxR 4. QxR+!, Resigns.

Problem No. 46 is quite difficult for the average chess fan. The first move, R-B6, threatens RxP+! If Black moves PxR at B6 or PxR at R6, White has Q-B7+ mate. On 4. QxR+, the Queen cannot be taken due to 5. R-K8+ mate. Checkmate will follow shortly in any case. What a beauty!

Twenty-three Santa Clara County schools were represented in the recent tournament for thirteen year-olds and under, sponsored by the P.A.L. Checkmates and the Santa Clara Chess Club.

Ten-year-old Olaf Vancura from Eisenhower won first place with a perfect score of four points. Paul Sumares from Sutter and Keith Higashihara from Hoover tied for second and third places with 3½ points. There was a seven-way tie from fourth through tenth places with three points by John Murai from Miller; Eric Little and Corey Mandell, Herman; Ching-Yen Cheng, Haman; Phil Matorena, Cherry Chase; Ravindra Murthry, Kennedy; and Chi Bin Chien, Gunn. Craig Matsumoto of Kennedy finished with 2½ points and was followed by the rest of the field.

All participants not receiving monetary prizes were awarded chess books donated by Jim La Marca of Santa Clara and Chess Life & Review magazines donated by Robert J. Richey of Campbell.

Holiday deadlines

Our deadline for stories for the Dec. 28 issue is noon Wednesday, Dec. 21. For the Jan 4 issue, it's noon Wednesday, Dec. 28.

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Last minute gift ideas for the tardy planner

Forgotten friends can be remembered quickly

By MADGE SAKSENA

DID YOU FORGET to add new friends to your gift list this year? If so, here are a number of speedy, creative suggestions.

One is an easy doll to make. This can be used as an ornament, package decoration or gift.

Requirements: empty toilet rolls or paper towel rolls (cut into 4" pieces), cloth for dress and hat and trim, yarn for hair, cloth for face and hands, felt for facial features.

How to: cover complete roll with cloth (face and hands color). Cut facial features. Glue in place at one end of roll. Make dress and trim. Place on roll. Cut dress cloth for arms (flat pieces). Glue on hands (made from "body" material). Glue complete arm and hand onto dress. Glue on yard for hair, long or short. Make hat, glue to hair. If hanger needed stitch loop of yarn through hat.

To save time make several dolls at the same time. Do each step simultaneously.

THE YARDAGE DEPARTMENT of many department stores sell "dolls" by the yard. I purchased five "dolls" for $1.15 from Stevens Fashion Fabrics. Each doll has two parts which you first cut out and then stitch together, leaving an opening at the bottom so that you can stuff the doll. There are also wreaths, stars and a lot of other delightful ideas which only need stitching. They are not difficult even if you cannot sew (like myself).

Can you knit or crochet? Sweaters, slippers and many other things can be put together very easily if you knit on big needles and thick yarn. Afghans are easy to crochet if you make them in "granny squares" and then stitch together. I prefer stitching them together as I finish each square.

Stitchery is another fun idea. Small pictures can be made and framed in a couple of evenings if you persevere.

COPY THE FASHION in clocks by placing a battery-powered clock on a painting. If you cannot paint, buy a paint-by-number kit and a clock. After completing the picture place the clock where it can be seen to its best advantage. To buy one of these "clock pictures" would cost you upwards of $30. To make one will cost you about one third of this amount. I framed my picture, but you don't have to do this unless you can afford it. I would suggest that you visit a store that sells these picture-clocks and see how they are put together.

What about a centerpiece for the table? The base can be made from an oblong piece of styrofoam covered with foil paper. On top of the foil pine tree branches and cones. In the center of the base put either some candles (preferably in glasses) or a small vase with cut flowers. Cover the pine branches with "snow" spray, bells, little Santas, Christmas Tree ornaments and whatever else you wish to make this a table decoration for the holidays.

Did you do any canning this summer? If so, why not dress up some of your jars and give them as gifts. Homemade gifts from the kitchen are always welcome.

A WONDERFUL STANDBY for a gift or for home consumption is bottled Boerenjongens cocktail. The recipe is as follows: One 15-oz. package raisins (2 cups); 3-½ cups water; 2 cups sugar; 1 pint (2 cups) whiskey. Combine raisins and water in large saucepan. Bring to boil. Reduce heat. Simmer 20 minutes. Add sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat. Stir in whiskey. Fill four clean pint or eight half-pint jars with mixture. Seal. Label. Serve in small glasses with tooth pick. Garnish with lemon, if desired. One suggestion — use wide mouth jars, otherwise you cannot get the raisins in or out of the jar (I learned this by experience).

For other last minute ideas, plant some spring bulbs in a pretty pot; take cuttings from some of your own indoor plants place in pot and decorate with ribbons and bows. Or make jelly in fancy glasses or jars, not just ordinary jellies, but some with creme de menthe flavor, rum flavor, etc.

These are just a few ideas for the las minute gift. Happy Gifting!

cb sender

Wrist-size CBs may be in the near future

By MICHAEL J. McCORMACK
(KDY-9134)

THEY SAY GOOD things come in small packages and that may just be what the people at Texas Instruments have in mind as they contemplate entering the CB market.

Several trade publications have already indicated that TI will be marketing their CBs sometime next year. TI's entrance into the CB market, if and when it does come, could start a trend in the size of future CB radios.

The size of mobile base radios has decreased steadily in the past few years and the looks have improved dramatically. Perhaps Texas Instruments will revolutionize the CB market as it did the calculator market.

IMAGINE THE CBS of the 1980s, so small that they can be worn on the wrist like watches. You might think that my imagination has run wild, but the JSA sales group of Illinois already markets a CB small enough to fit into your shirt pocket.

Of course, there are still lots of technical things that must be rectified before the miniature CB boom becomes popular.

Let's take a few minutes to consider the advantages of a network of miniature CBs. First, let us assume the experiment between Illinois Bell and E.F. Johnson (the pioneers of CB manufacturing) proves to be very successful in developing a joint CB and telephone system. The system would allow persons to make inexpensive phone calls via their CBs.

Let's also assume the FCC would set up several channels just to be used for landlines (phone calls relayed via the CB). Besides having a telephone relay system constantly available on your wrist for making calls you could also receive calls.

NATURALLY, SINCE millions of persons would be operating the miniature CBs of the future, the purchasing cost would be inexpensive.

You're probably wondering about all the good buddy talk and highway channels which are popular today. I predict they'll still be one of the main reasons why people will be CBing and by the '80s they will be well organized. There will probably be separate channels for different types of CB usage.

The channels could be so organized that we could have special channels for highway conditions, for communicating with law officials, for getting weather information, for making phone calls, for family communication and regular "rachet jawing" (everyday small talk) channels.

Dear Mike:

Is it better to buy a CB from a specialized CB store or one of the chain stores?

Jasper Davison,

Dear Jasper:

Although CB radios have become mass-marketed products, there are many advantages to buying from both the specialized CB store and the chain store. Watch future columns when I elaborate on this subject.

If you have any questions about CBs or CBing send them to Mike McCormack, c-o The CBers' News, P.O. Box 1702, Columbia, Mo. 65201.

Gifts with exotic flair

(Continued from page 3)

A GIFT THAT REALLY should be presented before Christmas is a living Christmas tree.

A living tree can lead two lives. It can wear decorations during the holidays and be placed outside on the patio or planted after the holidays.

The Tree Farm at 4434 El Camino Real in Los Altos says that a living tree can be put into a container where it will do well for three or four years before it has to be repotted. It can also be planted in a compressed-paper pot that will decompose when the tree is planted in the soil.

Evergreens require very little water, which is a boon here in drought country.

Living trees at the Tree Farm include a five-to six-foot Deodora Cedar at $31, a green or blue Colorado Spruce measuring four feet high at $24.95, several of three-to four-foot firs for $19.95, or Scotch Pines, Japanese Red or Black Pines four-to five-feet tall at $19.95 each.

IF YOUR FRIENDS think it's tacky to be forced to travel anywhere to play platform tennis, there's always one's own platform tennis court. T&F Construction of 535 N. Seventh St., San Jose, will be glad to build you one at a cost of between $10,000 and $15,000.

Platform tennis is described as one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. Devotees say it's easier to learn but harder to master than regular tennis.

It differs from tennis because the court is one-quarter as large as a tennis court and it can be played in inclement weather.

The sport is officially refererred to as platform tennis and called "paddle" in the East and "screen tennis" in the West.

FOR PEOPLE WHO have always coveted touch-tone telephones but balked at the expense and bother of arranging for the telephone company to install one, there's the Soft-Touch.

That bit of technology is a new mouthpiece that fits on your regular telephone. It is a small touch-tone dial that makes the dial on your phone just about useless.

The Soft-Touch is made by and is available from 2001 Telephone Systems at 1230 Mountain View-Alviso Road in Sunnyvale and costs $39.95. It comes in colors to match your phone if it is green, beige, white, black, yellow or red.

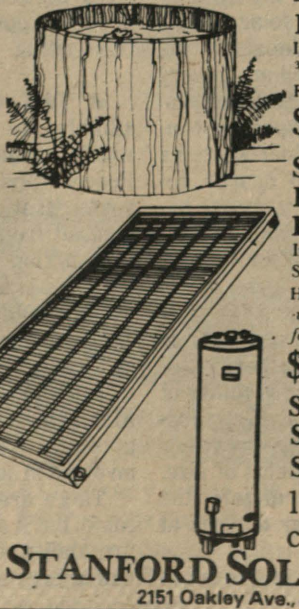
Great America hiring for season

Two thousand seasonal workers are needed at Marriott's Great America by March, the family entertainment center reports.

Applications are now being accepted for seasonal jobs at the theme park's employment office, located at Mission College Blvd. and Agnew Road.

The Marriott's Great America employment office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located in Santa Clara at Mission College Blvd. and Agnew Road. For employment information, call (408) 988-1776, ext. 505.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE



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penny pinchers

Slow cooked turkey won't give you Salmonella

By SHIRLEY TALLMAN

AFTER THE appearance of my Thanksgiving column which suggested slow-cooking the holiday turkey, several people mentioned that I might be giving potentially dangerous advice. They feared the possibility of Salmonella poisoning resulting from the low temperatures involved. (The column called for cooking the turkey at 300° for one hour to kill surface bacteria, then reducing the temperature to 185° for three times the normal cooking period. We cooked our 23 pound Thanksgiving bird for about 22 hours.)

Having no desire to do away with any of my readers or even make them mildly ill, I hurried to check out the facts. Several calls to the U.S. Department of Agriculture elicited the telephone number of Dr. York of the Foods and Science Department, University of California at Davis. Dr. York supervises laboratory testing and writes the bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture. I was told he was the man to set things straight.

First of all, he assured me that the initial hour at 300° was sufficient to kill surface bacteria. He went on to explain that the only danger would be from Staphylococcus Aureus (quite a mouthful) and **not** from Salmonella, and this in connection with the dressing and not the turkey itself. In fact, if the turkey is slow-cooked without the dressing there's no danger at all.

The dressing problem results if hands are not clean during its preparation and becomes contaminated with the Staphylococcus Aureus. This is compounded if the dressing is then packed so tightly into the turkey that it cannot heat quickly enough to a temperature sufficiently hot to kill these microorganisms. If poisoning does result it is not fatal, he assured me, but could be very unpleasant.

Dr. York confided that he hated to say too much against slow-cooking a turkey because the taste and texture is superior to those cooked in the conventional fashion. However, he did feel that a warning was necessary about the dangers of having dirty hands during preparation (I like to toss my dressing with two spoons instead of handling it) and of packing it too tightly into the cavity of the bird.

HERE ARE A COUPLE of festive additions to your holiday table. The first recipe is for homemade whole cranberry cauce. It's quick, easy and yields about twice as much as the canned sauce for about the same cost. And unless you've tried homemade you don't know how really good cranberry sauce can be.

The second recipe is for Holiday Cranberry Muffins, deliciously special for Christmas.

FRESH WHOLE CRANBERRY SAUCE

1 pound (4 cups) fresh cranberries
1½ - 2 cups sugar (depending on desired sweetness)
1 cup water (this makes firm sauce . . . use up to 1 cup more water if thinner sauce is desired)

Rinse cranberries in cold water and set aside to drain. Combine sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil for one minute until sugar is well dissolved. Add cranberries and cook until the skins pop, (about 5-7) minutes). Remove from heat and cool. May be served either warm or chilled. Yields four cups.

This sauce freezes well for up to 12 months.

HOLIDAY CRANBERRY MUFFINS

1¾ cups sifted flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1½ teaspoons baking powder
¾ teaspoon salt
1 cup fresh cranberries, chopped or whirled for a few seconds in blender.
¾ cup sugar
1 well beaten egg
1/3 cup salad oil
½ cup milk

Mix cranberries with the ¾ cup sugar and set aside. Sift dry ingredients into mixing bowl making a well in the center. Combine the egg, milk and salad oil. Pour into the well all at once and stir just until moistened (Don't overmix).

Fold in the cranberries. Fill greased muffin pans 2/3 full. Bake in hot oven (400°) for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Makes about one dozen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Editor's note: Trying to raise a family on a budget? Shirley Tallman tries to help each week in her column. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Send them to her at: P. O. Box 829, Milpitas, CA 95035.

the investor

Solar energy: hitching your future to the sun

By ALAN LERTZMAN

A FEW WEEKS AGO, a day-long hearing was held in Palo Alto, chaired by Assemblyman Victor Calvo of Mountain View. The hearing, one of a series being conducted throughout the state, is being held "to explore the role of government in accelerating the application of solar energy in California."

In coming months and years, a whole new development will begin to emerge which is prompted by the energy shortage evidenced within the current decade. The future will be much different as our supply of conventional fossil fuel decreases. What will be a substitute? Perhaps, the sun. We know that the heat generated by the sun warms us by day, but if we can devise a way to harness that heat and store it for subsequent usage, the use of conventional fuel to fire our present heating systems could be significantly reduced.

As in any other burgeoning industry there will be a myriad of problems that must be overcome. One of the big misconceptions may be the fact that solar energy systems will replace conventional heating systems. Solar systems, based on present technology require complete back-up provision. Solar will reduce the fuel consumption required by the older systems and save that valuable and scarce resource. While many solar projects are being tested in both field and actual applications, their feasibility, based on today's cost, is far from competitive.

ANOTHER PROBLEM that exists is the inability to store heat for periods of time which would improve the viability of the systems. Additionally, the applicability of these systems is limited by either the inflexibility of the components or size. Current economics do not dictate the wholesale application of solar devices at this time.

As noted above, there are major drawbacks, but the biggest problem is the high cost due to the limited technology in this embryonic industry.

In 1976 about $60 million was expended for solar heating systems. Double that amount is being spent in 1977 and by 1982, expenditures could exceed $1 billion dollars annually.

The government is committed to fuel conservation and has established an agency known as the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to sponsor programs to investigate, evaluate, and encourage solar projects as quickly as possible.

The following are tax incentives as proposed in President Carter's energy package. Carter's program calls for a tax credit of 40 percent with a maximum of a $2,000 credit in 1977 declining in stages through 1984. The House proposition sent to the Senate would allow a 30 percent credit on the first $1,500 and a 20 percent credit on the next $8,500 for solar energy systems between 1977 and 1984. There has been no approval of final legislation as of this writing.

A TAX CREDIT might provide the stimulas to generage solar investment which would otherwise lay dormant. Federal funding for solar energy research, demonstrations and installations, increased from under $1 million in 1973 to $200 million projected for next year. The objective is to solicit technical refinements which could result in lower price and greater efficiency.

There are a host of companies that play a role in solar energy development. Although investment opportunities are presently narrow, the list of companies involved in solar research is growing.

There are many obstacles to be overcome, but it appears certain man's innovative ability, combined with the need for a new energy source, will provide the background for harnessing the sun's inexhaustible power.

While it may seem remote and totally unrealistic, someday you may hitch your future to the sun.

And while we are on the subject of the future, may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Editor's Note: Readers may send comments and questions to Alan Lertzman, P.O. Box 395, Los Altos, 94022.

pet forum

Dog's useless extra claw can be removed

By SUANN HOSIE,
D.V.M.

Q: That little extra claw that a dog has on its leg — does it serve any purpose? It seems to bother our dog and he has even scratched himself enough to bleed. He's seven-years-old. Could the claw be removed without hurting him?

L.K.

A: Those little claws are known as dewclaws and they have no function. They could be removed surgically without hurting the dog, although after awakening from the anesthetic there would probably be some discomfort. In some breeds such as poodles or dobermans, the dewclaws are removed when the puppy is three-days old and at that age there is very little discomfort. Maybe it would be a good idea to do this to all dogs.

Q: Occasionally our Corgi, "Nipsey," gets constipated and seems to have a really hard time. We feed him a regular diet of canned food and dried food. Is there something else we can put in his meals to keep him free of this bothersome problem? Does constipation indicate some other kind of illness he may have?

O.G.

A: An inadequate amount of fiber or an excess of bones in the diet might result in constipation. In most cases, a mixed diet of canned and dry food with adequate amounts of fresh water should not cause constipation. Constipation can be related to physical problems. In older males, an enlargement of the prostate gland or tumors in the area of the anus may result in constipation.

Abscesses or infections in the anal sacs could cause pain and also result in constipation. Pain or mechanical obstruction from improperly healed pelvic fractures can also be involved. There are several types of stool-softening agents available. You should have your dog examined by your veterinarian to be sure he doesn't have a physical problem. If no problem is found and the diet seems adequate, then your veterinarian can recommend a suitable medication.

Editor's note: Readers can send questions to Dr. Hosie at "Pet Forum," P. O. Box 1962, San Mateo, CA 94401.

ART - MUSIC - DRAMA - MOVIES - FOOD
& DRINK - BOOKS - CALENDAR - MOVIES

Marquee

Race driver 'goes to Monte Carlo' to lose to Herbie the Love Bug?

By KATHY BRIDGMAN

WALT DISNEY Productions' famous "Herbie" the Love Bug is almost as familiar a machine these days as R2-D2. But did you know that in the latest "Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo" film the VW's stiffest racing competition came from a Datsun 280-Z, owned and driven by Santa Clara's Joel Anderson?

Anderson, who is a credited advertising/graphics agent and SCCA race driver, heard that Disney Productions was about to shoot some race track scenes for an upcoming movie at Laguna Seca Raceway in Monterey, so he sent the studio some pictures of his classy-chassis-Z. Within a few days, he received a call from the studio telling him they wanted to use his car in the film.

Anderson and wife Karen arrived at the racetrack only to discover that, due to the problems the Hollywood stunt drivers were having mastering the Z's racing clutch, Joel would be doing his own stunt driving.

Racing Laguna Seca was not new to Anderson, but re-creating the track to look like a Grand Prix in France and having his toughest competitor a Volkswagon, was a bit of a fantasy. And, since it was a Disney film, everyone knows who the winner was.

BUT DESPITE the inevitability of the movie, Anderson and his Z find themselves parading the winner's lap more times than not, althought his claim to fame did not come about overnight. His interest in cars and racing began in high school with his self-built 1940 drag-racing Ford. But, as time went on, his dreams of racing had to be temporarily set aside in order to pursue a career in art and advertising, which eventually led him into partnership with Gallott Advertising.

After several re-locations and various company ventures, Anderson settled into Santa Clara County to begin concentrated efforts at establishing himself as a businessman as well as a champion road racing professional.

He began entering local autocross competitions with a 240-Z and after pouring substantial amounts of money into the car, began consistently placing first. At this point, the Datsun was taking a mechanical beating trying to keep up with normal street driving and the racing requirements of suspension and gearing modifications, so Anderson decided to sell the street "Z" and build his own 280-Z race car. It took approximately seven months to complete the now-classic white "Z" with the bold black-arrowed hood and precision accent stripes — and an overwhelming $15,000.

KAREN ANDERSON also became interested in racing and soon both she and Joel joined SCCA Solo-One (which, for any layman, means regulated time-trials using road race courses) to iron out the bugs in the new "Z." They also served as pit crew members to find out what it took to be a winner, to familiarize themselves with the different racing rules and requirements and to form their own crew.

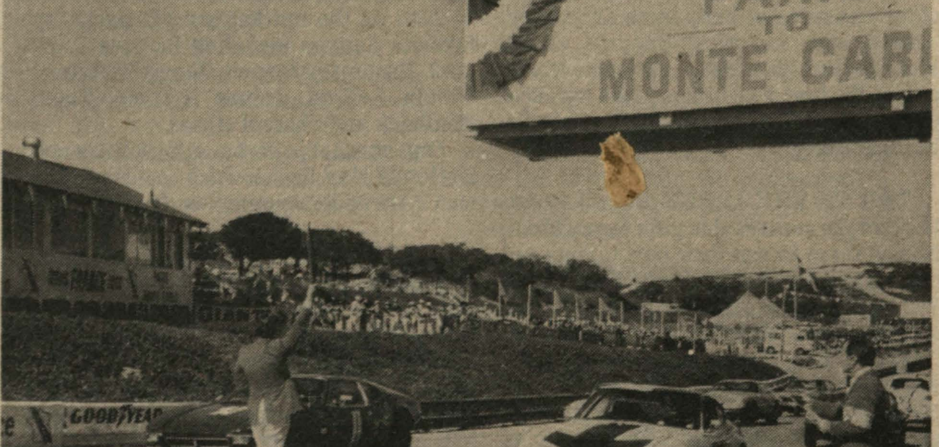
They spend a minimum of 40 hours before each race going over endless checklists, which is a key element to their success. Anderson has now earned himself and his sponsor, Hayward Datsun, a first-place position in the San Francisco region, having finished on top in most of his events at both Sears Point International Raceway and Laguna Seca. His upcoming venture will be to form a two-car racing team next year with San Francisco's Regional National champ, Frank Leary, who will race in Atlanta for the national title.

"Racing is a challenge," Anderson admits. "I get a lot out of it knowing that I built the car myself and drive it myself — it's something you, yourself have put together. I guess it's really a lot of **me** going against my competitor."

Anderson considers himself a semi-conservative driver, but to any dedicated racer, the effect is the same. "When you're in the car and before the race starts, you're like scrambled eggs. But once the green flag drops, you know what you have to do — you have to go to work — and there's no other world that exists. It's a release . . . it's total . . . and that's a neat thing!"

THE PERSONAL satisfactions of auto racing can be as different as the people themselves. For Anderson, it's genuine comradery. "There's no equation to who you are, who you know, how much money you make or what you do for a living. I know a ton of people and I have no idea what they do for a living, where they live, what kind of house they have or how much money they make, and I don't even care! Racing is a hobby that's supposed to bring back some sanity into an otherwise crazy world existance."

At 35, Joel Anderson is coming out a winner in auto racing, even though the magic of motion pictures proved his powerful Z could not surpass humble Herbie the Love Bug!



JOEL ANDERSON edges his racy white 280-Z with a daring black arrow on the hood up to the starting line of the "Grand Prix," really Laguna Seca. In the right background is a spunky VW with number 53 on its rounded hood. That's Herbie the Love Bug who was destined to win the movie race.

San Jose Youth Symphony chosen for Berlin contest

THE SAN JOSE Youth Symphony has been selected to compete in the Herbert von Karajan Youth Orchestra Competition, Sept. 14-26, 1978, in Berlin.

Parents and friends of the Youth Symphony are currently working with the San Jose Symphony Association to raise the $50,000 necessary to send every member of the orchestra to Berlin for the competition, which takes place once every four years.

In a letter of acceptance to Youth Symphony conductor and music director Otmar Suitmer, General Director of the Berlin Opera, stated that the competition is trying to restrict the number of orchestras representing each country to a maximum of two. A second American representative orchestra has not yet been named.

MAESTRO EUGENE STOIA and the San Jose Youth Symphony auditioned for the Von Karajan Competition through tape recordings selected from their 1976/77 season concerts. "We tried to let them see the orchestra in three different postures," Stois declared, "symphonic, accompaniment and operatic."

At the competition in September the orchestra will be asked to perform several required pieces plus compositions of Maestro Stoia's choice before an international jury of musicians and conductors.

Contributions toward the orchestra's Berlin trip may be sent to the San Jose Symphony Association, 170 Park Center Plaza, Suite 100, San Jose, 95113.

What's easy to wrap – and thought-provoking?

By LARRY ENGELMANN

GOOD BOOKS always make good and memorable Christmas gifts. From among the thousands of titles and authors available each year it is not difficult to select ones that match the interests of various family members and friends.

This year there are a large number of high-quality books to choose from. The following are but a sampling of some of the very best.

Annie Dillard's "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek," published in 1974, was an extraordinarily enchanting account of the author's isolated life in the country in Virginia. The book, which read like a modern "Walden," had very wide appeal and became an immediate best seller. Dillard was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her work and her reputation as a first-rate writer of nonfiction was firmly established.

In 1975 Dillard took up residence on an island in Puget Sound, in a wooden room furnished with "one enormous window, one spider, one cat and one person." For the next two years she asked herself questions about time, reality, sacrifice, death and the will of God. Her observations and conclusions are recorded concisely in her familiar poetic style in "Holy the Firm" (Harper & Row, $6.50).

Dillard is a pantheist, finding the Holy and the Sacred and evidence of the Absolute in every facet and nook of nature. She sees the universe in a raindrop. At her best she is like a divine prism through which each of us can see the world around us more clearly.

"Holy the Firm" is a sensitive and memorable little book, one that can be read and reread with pleasure. There is a romantic sophistication woven into its passages that will keep Annie Dillard popular with American readers for a very long time.

A MORE FORMAL and scholastic approach to the Absolute can be found in Hans Kung's "On Being a Christian" (Doubleday, $12.95). For the past year and a half Kung's study has been a surprising best seller in Europe. The prodigious volume is at last available to American readers and can be found in the religious section of most local bookstores.

Kung's book is both exhaustive and brilliant in its reexamination of what it means to be a Christian today. He looks at Christian morality and values in their social and political context, the relationship between Christians and Jews and various problems of denominational organization. He concludes with practical suggestions for dealing with personal crises in faith.

Basically, "On Being a Christian" is a kind of sophisticated "Roots" for Christian theology. It is not, to be sure, for the popular reading public. Rather it is intended for the educated reader and the Biblical scholar.

Raphael Patai's "The Jewish Mind" (Scribners, $14.95) does for Judaism what Kung does for Christianity. It, too, is a book of extremely praiseworthy scholarship and erudition. Patai seeks answers to the following questions: Why should the Jewish mind differ from the Gentile mind? What are the causes of Jewish diversity? Which were the major external influences upon the Jewish mind? What is the essence of Jewishness? Are there constants in the Jewish mind? And is there such a thing as global Jewish influence?

In seeking answers to these questions Patai guides his readers through three thousand years of history, detailing encounters between the Jews on the one hand and Canaanite culture, Hellenism, the Arab Golden Age, Renaissance Italy, Russian sectarianism and the European Enlightenment on the other. This initial study is followed by an analysis of the contemporary Jewish mind.

LAWRENCE LEVINE'S "Black Culture and Black Consciousness" (Oxford, $15.95) deals with culture and folklore as well as with religion and the intellect. Levine, in fact, utilizes Afro-American folklore for exposing hitherto hidden roots of Afro-American folk thought.

Levine shows that a viable culture does not necessarily have to be a written one. Blacks, he demonstrates, have possessed a vibrant oral culture that was handed down from one generation to the next. That oral culture existed in the music of spirituals, gospel songs, work songs and in the blues; in folk tales and in the creation of folk heroes; in a ribald, self-deprecating brand of humor that was also satirical and biting in its exposure of the American racial system.

By reconstructing the development of Afro-American folk thought, so long misunderstood or ignored by white Americans, Levine enables the reader to understand black Americans' group cohesion, pride and history, and the mechanisms they have erected to guard their values, maintain their sense of worth, and retain their sanity.

Books for Christmas: boxed sets, pictorials

BY JOYCE MILLIGAN

THE PAPERBACK SHELF can provide a solution to those last minute Christmas shopping problems. There are large format gift books that make handsome presents, traditional paperbacks for stocking stuffers, boxed sets by favorite authors which will provide hours of reading pleasure, and even books packaged with games. They come in a range that fits all pocketbooks and ages.

Among the outstanding paperback pictorials are "The Best of Life" (Avon, $8.95) and "Life Goes To The Movies" (Wallaby, $8.95). Both are re-prints of expensive hardbound volumes — only the covers have been changed. Inside, there are the marvelous photographs which made Life magazine a favorite for decades, combining history with nostalgia.

Another beautiful paperback volume is "Treasures of Tutankhamun" (Ballantine, $7.95) which doubles as catalogue for the Egyptian exhibition now touring the United States. Its stunning color photographs of the treasures of Tut's tomb are supplemented with historical pictures of the archeological discovery, and a text describing the find, the origins of the legend of the mummy's curse, and the time of the boy king's reign.

TWO OF THE LARGE format paperbacks make remarkable gifts for children, helping them to use their own talents and enter into creative projects. "The Second Whole Kids Catalogue" (Bantam, $7.50) is a source book patterned after the famous "Whole Earth Catalogue" and contains more than 100 listings of free things kids can send for, as well as 100 different projects and 44 chapters on subjects ranging from magic to music, from cooking to carpentry. Its creator, Peter Cardoza, designed the book without an index for a special purpose — so that youngsters would explore its pages and make some exciting new discoveries.

Aimed at the four to eight-year-old set, "Richard's Scarry's Best MAKE-IT Book Ever" (Random House, $4.95) is a self contained book of stories and cut-outs which require little more than scissors and paste to assemble. It includes amusing introductory stories about the animal characters which have made Scarry one of the most popular children's writers today.

GIFT PACKS OF paperbacks, many of which come in good looking slip-cases, provide reading entertainment long after the Christmas tree comes down. J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" (Ballantine, four volumes $7.80) should be a popular gift this season. It not only contains "The Hobbit" which was one of the highly rated post-Thanksgiving television shows, it also continues the adventures in Middle Earth with the "Lord of the Rings" Trilogy.

"The World of Doonesbury" (Bantam, five books, $6.25) contains the best of Gary Trudeau's satirical comic strip, featuring favorite characters who also made their debut on television recently in a special following "The Hobbit."

Also on the market are gift packs by favorite authors including Barbara Cartland, Rosemary Rogers, James Michener, Ursula LeGuin, James Herriott, Erma Bombeck and a host of others.

One unusual paperbal gift pack is a collection of Mad Books which comes with its own "Alfred E. Neuman" bookends.

A BOOK-GAME combination gift pack includes a "Master Mind game board and pegs and a copy of the paperback 'The Official Master Mind Handbook'" by Leslie H. Ault (Signet, $6 set). "Master Mind," a popular new game that teaches children inductive reasoning, is also fun for adults because it can by played at several levels of sophistication. The book explains its strategies.

Individual stocking stuffers abound in paperback, from the best-sellers to books about sports, psychology, self-improvement, world events and a number of other special interest subjects.

Foothill workshop for conductors

Daniel Lewis, music director of the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra and chairman of the conducting department of the University of Southern California, will be director of a special Conductor's Workshop Jan. 19-22 at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills.

The workshop will be sponsored by Foothill's Fine Arts Division and the Association of California Symphony Orchestras.

According to Foothill coordinator John Mortarotti, "The workshop will provide a 'classroom' for professional study of orchestral conducting for those emerging conductors under 40 years of age needing constructive criticism and experience working with an advanced instrumental ensemble."

Invitations are extended to conductors of community orchestras, as well as public school, college, and university bands and orchestras. College graduate students planning careers in conducting also may apply to participate.

A full symphony orchestra will be provided and each conductor will be recorded on video tape for playback and evaluation. In all, there will be five sessions with orchestra, four class periods for critique and evaluation, and two periods for private consultation and individual study. Works by Bartok, Schuster and Haydn will be studied.

Only a limited number of conductors can be admitted to the workshop, Mortarotti said. Interested men and women should contact Mortarotti at the Foothill College Fine Arts Division promptly.

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the professionals

Lots of entertainers celebrating holiday

Notes and comments on professional entertainment available to MARQUEE readers.

THIS WEEK CLOSE TO HOME: With Christmas coming up on Sunday, the professional entertainers are, for the most part, also on holiday. . .Two noteworthy groups of die-hards will be playing their hearts out this week however. Over at Old Town Los Gatos, the California Actors Theater gang keeps packing them in for "Scapino," the hilarious, free-for-all comedy that will keep the whole family laughing for days. . . Don't forget to reserve your seats for their New Years Eve Extravaganza now. . .

At the Center for Performing Arts, Academy Award winner Jose Ferrer and a dynamite cast of 35 opened Tuesday in Charles Dickens' immortal holiday classic "A Christmas Carol." For a really heartwarming, family event, take the whole group to see this excellent Theater Guild production. A matinee every day through Saturday, including an 11 a.m. performance on the 24th!

MOVIE OF THE WEEK: For sheer holiday enjoyment, "The Magic Flute" at Camera One has to take the cake. Ingmar Bergman's beautiful tribute to the whimsy in Mozart is paired with Francois Truffaut's "Small Change" for a true holiday film bill.

WHAT'S UP NORTH? Only three clubs show any bookings for this Christmas week. . . At the Old Waldorf, we find Meatloaf on Friday and Saturday and Rick Danko, plus Libby Titus on next Tuesday and Wednesday. . . At the Venetian Room, Al Martino through Jan. 4 . . . The Mocambo features Anita O'Day through Saturday, then Torillravnaas next Tuesday through Friday . . .

SEASON'S GREETINGS from the professionals to all of the talented people whose dedication to the arts have made the Santa Clara County performing arts bloom this past year. And to all the loyal "theatre-goers" who have allowed us to share our love of art with you. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

KRAZY GEORGE

A SPECIAL ADDED attraction at the 53rd annual Shrine East-West Football Game and Pageant will be "Krazy George" Henderson. The zany, mischievous madcap will be in the stands during the entire game, his presence adding to the color and excitment Saturday afternoon, Dec. 31, at Stanford Stadium. George is joined here by Managing Director Frank Busse (center) and Pageant Director John Pecorino, who are wearing the Mexican sombreros for the "Grand Fiesta of Mexico" halftime pageant.

theatre/review

'Cry of Players' could have used help from Will

By GLENN LEBOWITZ

MY KILLER INSTINCT tells me to slaughter Actors' Repertory Theater's production of William Gibson's "Cry of Players," because I know they could have done better with more thought and care.

But my Shirley Temple side, all sweet and loving says I can't write a nasty review for a play an audience thoroughly enjoyed.

Therefore, I'll tell the best and the worst and let you decide whether or not you want to travel to A.R.T.'s Paseo Theater on Second Street in San Jose, before Jan. 14 to judge "Cry of Players" for yourself.

With "Cry of Players," Gibson attempts to illuminate the sea of darkness surrounding the youth and early development of William Shakespeare.

THE MAIN CHARACTER is a young part-time poacher and drinker named Will, who lives in an unnamed town that bears a strange resemblance to Stratford-on-Avon. Gibson coyly avoids using the name "Shakespeare."

Will goes through an identity crisis as he refuses to accept or become part of the ignorant, oppressive social order. Instead, he chooses to leave the safety of his wife, family and everything he knows, to travel with an acting troupe to London and seek out his destiny there.

The theme focuses on the suffering and doubt experienced by a man who dares to be himself, but the dramatic impact of the play relies on the audience thinking the youth will go off to London and become a successful dramatic genius.

It's hard to picture Gibson's Will, with his preoccupation for sex, ever becoming Shakespeare. In fact, one worries for the future of the English language after hearing his first few horrible puns.

All in all, "Cry of Players" is an entertaining melodrama, a superb springboard from which directors and performers can take off and really show of what stuff they are made.

A.R.T.'S SHOW is disappointing because it was sloppy and not even close to the quality this group is capable of. By most standards, Director Donna Breed did an acceptable job but she made no use of the play as a springboard. Those who know the play and A.R.T.'s capabilities will feel cheated.

Instead of playing poor conflict-torn Will as a man struggling for self-identity, John Davies, a San Jose State University performer, plays Will as if he were a man who would sell tuna fish sandwiches to children during a botulism scare.

Will should come across as a young man who is practically torn apart by his decision to step through the door toward immortality. Will is not a selfish creep who runs away from his wife and kids. Davies' Will, lacking tenderness, leaves too easily, dampening the play's effect.

Sally Cotton, as Will's wife Anne, gave the strongest performance of the evening. Unfortunately, her performance was uneven. She was weak in the first act, strong in the second and spotty in the third. Her scenes with Davies were exceptionally powerful. They play off each other very well.

Another problem with the performance was that the actors didn't control the pace of the play. They often sped too quickly through key lines and sometimes, at the wrong times, spoke too slowly and the play seemed to drag.

THE PLAY'S LARGE cast placed experienced and inexperienced players on stage together, which is fine, for how else will young actors learn? But there is no excuse for having half the performers speaking in a regional dialect and half sounding like they walked in off the streets of San Jose, which they did.

Some of the players gave outstanding performances. Cory Waletzko gives a bewitchingly natural performance as Will's young daughter Susanna. Bob Pellerin, Rand Earl and Harry Betzold are strong in the roles of Kemp, Sir Thomas and Berry.

Carl Recktenwald's lighting and technical direction add to the drama by making it easy for the audience to get involved in the play. The small Paseo Theater, where no one is ever too far from the players, also intensifies involvement.

It is still worth your while to see "Cry of Players" even though the performance is flawed. It's a fast-moving, emotion-packed play with a message that comes through loud and clear. You are guaranteed to continue thinking about this play after you leave the theater.

Women's tennis tournament set

Women's tennis at its competitive best will be offered at the $20,000 Avon Futures Tennis Tournament, co-sponsored by Billie Jean King, to be held at Bayside Racquet Club in San Carlos, Jan. 9-14.

Proceeds of the entire tennis event are to benefit the Peninsula Center for the Blind.

Featured among the 60 or so qualifying players will be Maria Bueno, ranked first internationally in 1959 and 1964; Ann Kiyomura, former U.S. National Junior Champ (1972) and a Wimbledon doubles champ; Pam Teeguarden, former U.S. Open Mixed Doubles Champ (1975) and Iris Riedel, Germany No. 1 Ladies Singles.

As kick-off to the tournament a Pro-Am Round Robin will be held on Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Bayside Racquet Club. This will feature local amateur players with the pro-women players on the tour. Jim Plunkett, honorary co-chairman of the tournament has announced his entry into the Pro-Am as have Larry King and Dick Gould.

Also included as part of the tournament are a series of tennis clinics to be held at private courts throughout the area Jan. 5, 6 and 7. At each clinic two women pros will give a chalk talk, strategy session and an exhibition of points and playing for those attending.

Further information on tickets for the tournament and participation in the Pro-Am or the tennis clinics may be obtained by calling 322-7715 or 948-1395.

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Theatre

"LAS PASTORELAS" — A reenactment of the shepherds journey to the birthplace of Christ. It is an outdoor play in which the audience participates as part of a candlelight procession. It will be presented in the vicinity of the Guadalupe Church in East San Jose, December 21, 8 p.m.

"OLIVER" — Theatreworks presentation, Palo Alto Community Theater, 1305 Middlefield road, Palo Alto, December 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, January 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 8:30 p.m.; January 1, 8, and 14, 2:30 p.m. Tickets: $3.50, general; $2.50, youth and seniors, for reservations call box office 329-2623.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" — Starring Jose Ferrer, San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, December 20, 21, 22, and 23, 7:30 p.m.; December 21, 22, 23, 2 p.m.; December 24, 11 a.m. Tickets: $4.50 to $7.50, for reservations call San Jose Box Office, 246-1160.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" — Santa Clara Arena theatre, 3091 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, December 21, 22, and 23. Tickets: Wednesday and Thursday, $3 adults, $2 children, $8 per family; Friday, $3.50 adults, $2 childrenFor reservations call 296-SCAT.

"A CRY OF PLAYERS" — Actors Repertory Theatre, 249 S. Second street, San Jose. A hilarious romp through merry old England with young Will Shakespeare, by William Gibson, Friday and Saturday, through January 14, 8:30 p.m. Tickets: $3.50, general; $2.50, students, seniors and military, for reservations call 266-0466.

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" — Palo Alto Cultural Center Auditorium, Embarcadero — Newell road, preview December 23, 26 and 31, 8 p.m. Tickets: $3.50, general; $2.50 students and seniors available at Palo Alto Community box office or at the door.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" — By Charles Dickens starring Jose Ferrer as Scrooge, San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, December 21, 22 and 23, 7:30 p.m.; December 21, 22, 23, 2 p.m.; December 24, 11 a.m. Tickets: $4.50 to $7.50, for reservations call San Jose Box Office, 246-1160.

"SCAPINO" — California Actors Theatre, Old Town, Los Gatos, through January 1. Tickets: $4.75 to $8.75, for reservations call 354-6057.

"DAISEY'S DILEMMA" — The Opry House of San Jose, 21350 Almaden road, San Jose, Friday at 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. For reservations call 268-2492.

THE CELEBRATED mimes Shields & Yarnell will make exclusive Bay Area concert appearances on Saturday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. at Flint Center in Cupertino. They will give what they call "a space-age vaudeville show" with theatrical bits, music, improvisation, and dance. They will be backed by a 16-piece orchestra and preceded by juggler Ray Jason—a street artist friend of Robert Shields. Tickets at $6, $7, and $8 are available through the Foothill College Box Office, Flint Center Box Office, Ticketron outlets, Macy's, and Capwell's.

"SLIPPERY WHEN WET" OR "FROSTY" — Gaslighter Theatre, 400 E. Campbell avenue, Campbell through March, 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday. For reservations call 378-9721.

Music

"A TRADITIONAL EVENING OF CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT" — A wide variety of music will be played. Children will be given an opportunity to help out with certain of the presentations by playing various of the folk rhythm instruments. A short comedy "Mummers' Play" will also be presented. Sunnyvale Performing Arts Center, 550 E. Remington, December 21, 7 p.m. Tickets: $2, adults; $1, children, for reservations call box office, 733-6611, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 4 to 8 p.m.

Special Events

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — "A Christmas Crisis" will feature over 300 youngsters and life-size puppets in a colorful program of dances and acrobatics. St. Nick himself will be making an appearance during the pageant. San Jose Civic Auditorium, December 21, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Black history week planning to start soon

BLACK HISTORY Week is Feb. 12-19, 1978. The city of San Jose Fine Arts Office and many community groups are now coordinating events for a city-wide celebration.

One major project for the week is a symposium of Afro-American Art. Events will include lectures, workshops, art exhibits, theatrical productions, trade bazaars, music and dance concerts and poetry readings.

The Office of Fine Arts is interested in identifying the local visual and performing artists of the Afro-American community.

Anyone wishing to become involved in planning and participation contact Carl Blake at the Fine Arts Office, 277-5144.

on the mall

Free and fun: upcoming at area shopping centers

EASTRIDGE . . .
Santa Visits — Children are invited to visit Santa daily during the holiday season, mall hours. All Santa's visitors will receive a free Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom of Christmas coloring book.

Songs of the Season — Iglesia Del Valle Choir, December 21, 6 p.m.; San Jose Men's Chorus, December 22, 6 p.m.; The Singing Stairsteps, December 23, 6 p.m.

EL PASEO DE SARATOGA
"Scrooge" — Centerstage Productions will perform the musical based on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", December 22 and 23, noon and 3 p.m., Fountain courtyard. Between performances costumed carolers will stroll through the center.

Caroling — The Apres ski club, December 22, 7 p.m.; Canticle Choir from the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Clara, December 22, 7:30 p.m.

OLD MILL SPECIALTY CENTER . . .
Christmas Choirs — December 21 and 22, 7:30 p.m.; December 24, 2:30 p.m.

THE PRUNEYARD
Christmas Carols — Girl Scout Troop #942, December 21, 7:30 p.m.; Girl Scout Troop #311, December 22, 7 p.m.

SAN ANTONIO . . .
"The Collector's Showcase" — A quartet from the Peninsulaires, members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Singing in America, Inc.

"Carmen" production needs volunteer help

Volunteers with some theatre experience are being sought as production workers and on-stage extras for the fully staged production of the opera "Carmen" to be given Feb. 9 and 11 in the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts.

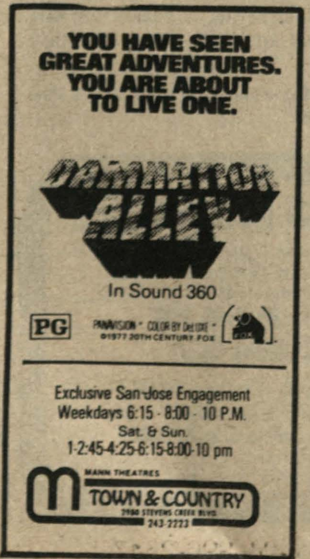
"Carmen" will be presented by the Opera Company of the San Jose Symphony with Metropolitan Opera star Rosalind Elias in the title role. Interested volunteers should contact Michael Milenski at the San Jose Symphony Office, 287-7383.

SCAT to conduct comedy auditions

Auditions for John Patrick's comedy, "Lo and Behold" have been set for Dec. 31 and Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. - noon at the Santa Clara Arena Theater, 3091 El Camino Real.

Three parts are available for women (ages 18-25), three parts for men (25-35), one man 30-40 and one man 50 years or older. The production is being directed by Kevin Furey of Sunnyvale.

Performance dates are from Feb. 25 — April 1 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information call 296-SCAT.



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film/review

Too much melodrama in 'Roseland dance hall'

By LARRY ENGELMANN

"ROSELAND," a film directed by James Ivory, will make you think. As the three stories that make up the movie roll by on the screen you will probably find yourself thinking about such things as, "Did I turn off the Christmas tree lights before I left home?" "Will it ever rain again in California?" or "What am I doing in this theater when I could be somewhere else watching Clint Eastwood blow up perverts?"

And, most certainly, you will think about the advertisements you saw for this film — in the Adult Entertainment section of the newspaper beside ads for such genre classics as "French Teenagers" and "Truck Stop Woman."

For some unannounced and rather hideous reason, "Roseland" has been paired with an X-rated film for showing in the area. "Roseland" will never be mistaken for a classic (except, perhaps, by the people who lease films for showing on cable television), but it most certainly deserves a better chance than it will get on such a program as this.

After all, at the New York Film Festival several weeks ago this film received a seven-minute standing ovation. No matter how chilly it may have been in the theater, chances are that at least several minutes of the clapping were for the film — the rest to ward off frost bite.

THE FILM IS set in the real Roseland, a famous dance hall in New York just off Broadway on 52nd Street. And real patrons of the place were utilized in the movie crowd scenes. Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's screenplay involves three separate stories set in the dance hall — each with its own cast.

In the first story, Teresa Wright portrays an aging and lonely woman in search of male companionship. Eventually she finds a dancing man to fill her needs in the person of Lou Jacobi. The second story of the film — and by far the best — has Christopher Walken playing a professional gigolo-dancer whose loyalties are divided between three demanding women. One of them (Joan Copeland) supports him financially. Another (Geraldine Chaplin) is a wide-eyed romantic who wants him to return to his career as a professional dancer. And the third (Helen Gallagher), his former professional dancing partner, wants him again to team up with her.

The final story of the film involves an elderly couple intent on twirling away the last years of their lives on the floor of the Roseland ballroom — a geriatric metaphor for life.

"ROSELAND" IS a small and controlled version of those films, usually involving massive doses of melodrama, in which large casts are gathered together in order to interact with each other — the "Grand Hotel" type of production popular since the 1930s. It is also based upon a type of drama that has been tried semi-successfully several times on television. But in this film there is just too much contrived and stylized sentimentalism.

Ironically, the film lacks a soul. It's as if everyone involved in the production was preoccupied with another more important project. "Roseland" seems, consequently, a strange blend of nostalgia, tenderness, sentimentality and Sominex.

the winetaster

'Great Winemakers' a new book, a new outlook

By MARY LESTER

THERE ARE BOOKS, books galore on wines. Seemingly, to me, anyway, there must be at least five new ones published every week. I review few because, first of all, I am a wine writer on all subjects, not just books. Secondly, very few of the books are worth more than several lines. Most all are merely repeating what has been said before and many don't even add a new twist to the words and thoughts.

A different book, is "Great Winemakers of California" by Robert Benson. Published by Capra Press, Santa Barbara, it retails for $15 and is worth it. Benson, a law professor at Loyola University, Los Angeles, carries on "conversations" with 28 winemakers whose wineries range in location from Ukiah in Mendocino county to San Diego. Some of the winemakers queried are David Bruce, David Bruce Winery; Richard Arrowood, Chateau St. Jean; James Concannon, Concannon Vineyards; Paul Draper, Ridge Vineyards; Ely Callaway, Callaway Vineyard and Winery; and Robert Mondavi, Robert Mondavi Winery.

Perhaps because of his legal training, Benson has asked some especially probing questions about the winemaker's views of his product and style. Each chapter opens with a picture of the winemaker and a quote that often is controversial. Then follows a few paragraphs with Benson describing the subject, the meeting place and briefly setting the scene for the interview-conversation. Unfortunately, three of the winemakers profiled are now deceased. (Also, Mike Grgich no longer is with Chateau Montelena but has his own Grgich Cellars.) But we are indeed fortunate to have on record some of the last interviews given by these notable men on their beloved wines.

I CAN JUST visualize and mentally hear the basso voice of Karl Wente saying: "I think the use of oak is like the use of garlic in cooking. We're here to make wine that has the flavor of a grape, not a two-by-four." And, Dick Peterson, somewhat irreverantly: "You know, if you leave the winemaking up to God, He'll make vinegar - not wine." Ely Callaway's first quote, under his impressive photo, sums up a lot of people's thinking: "Wine is a 'story' business. Beer isn't. There's no back label with a story on a beer can."

It took Ely, a newcomer in the wine industry, to say for publication what many oldtimers have privately expressed, and, Robert Benson, a comparitive newcomer in the non-industry part of the wine field, to "get a handle" on the tastes, wine outlook and output of many outstanding winemakers of modern day California.

WORTHWHILE WINE books that cost but $5.95 each are the paperback editions of "Sonoma and Mendocino Wine Tour" and "Napa Valley Wine Tour." Both are published by Vintage Image and may be purchased at book stores and wine tasting rooms. Each book has beautiful illustrations of every winery written about and also whimsical sketches highlighting articles on nearby restaurants and attractions. Good book buys for those interested in particular wine regions of California.

Services for children list now available

A NEW EDITION of the "Directory of Specialized Services for Children and Adolescents" is now available from the Mental Health Association in Santa Clara County.

The directory includes over 100 pages of listings of services throughout the county including residential and day care treatment programs, out-patient and counseling services, crisis intervention programs, respite care, speech and hearing services, educationally handicapped programs, special recreation and camp programs, citizen organizations, services for the developmentally disabled and others. Both private and public listings are included, along with program descriptions, eligibility requirements, fees, hours open and the names of directors and contact people.

The director is $5. You may order one by sending a check to the Mental Health Association, 1572 Los Padres Blvd., Santa Clara, 95050. For information or referral regarding these services call the association at 247-1770.

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